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as Trustee of SORENSEN RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT TRUST

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JENS ERIK SORENSEN, as Trustee of  
SORENSEN RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT TRUST,

Plaintiff

v.

CENTRAL PURCHASING, LLC, a  
California Corporation; and DOES 1 –  
100,

Defendants.

) Case No. 08 cv 309 BTM CAB

)

) **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS &  
AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF  
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO MODIFY  
PATENT LOCAL RULES SCHEDULE TO  
ACCELERATE IDENTIFICATION OF  
CLAIMED INVALIDATING PRIOR ART**

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) Date: June 20, 2008

) Time: 11:00 a.m.

) Hon. Barry T. Moskowitz

)

) **NO ORAL ARGUMENTS UNLESS  
ORDERED BY THE COURT**

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## INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Jens Erik Sorensen, as Trustee of Sorensen Research and Development Trust (“Sorensen”) requests the Court pursuant to Patent L.R. 1.3 to accelerate the obligation of all parties claiming invalidity of the subject ‘184 patent to identify prior art that they contend invalidates the patent within 60 days.

The Patent Local Rules set the usual and customary date for service of preliminary invalidity contentions to be approximately four and a half months after filing suit. However, Patent L.R. 1.3 allows the Court to accelerate that and other deadlines when the circumstances warrant a change. Sorensen believes that circumstances warrant an acceleration of this deadline in all of the cases regarding U.S. Patent No. 4,935,184 (the ‘184 patent).

There are currently 24 patent infringement cases pending in this Court regarding the ‘184 patent<sup>1</sup>. In each case where an answer has been filed, the Defendants have asserted invalidity of the patent (and in some instances cross-complained for declaratory relief of invalidity) without identification of any factual basis for that claim. Many have also requested a stay pending conclusion of two reexaminations of the ‘184 patent currently pending before the USPTO. The Defendants in this case have obtained an extension to file an answer, but it is

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<sup>1</sup> *Sorensen v. DMS Holdings, et al*, Case No. 08cv559, filed March 25, 2008; *Sorensen v. Kyocera International, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 08cv411; *Sorensen v. Central Purchasing, LLC, et al.*, Case No. 08cv309; *Sorensen v. Logitech, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 08cv308; *Sorensen v. Metabo Corporation, et al.*, Case No. 08cv304; *Sorensen v. Rally Manufacturing, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 08cv302; *Sorensen v. Sunbeam Products, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 08cv306; *Sorensen v. Star Asia, U.S.A., LLC, et al.*, Case No. 08cv307; *Sorensen v. CTT Tools, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 08cv231; *Sorensen v. Global Machinery Company, et al.*, Case No. 08cv233; *Sorensen v. Emissive Energy Corp., et al.*, Case No. 08cv234; *Sorensen v. Alltrade Tools, LLC., et al.*, Case No. 08cv232; *Sorensen v. Motorola, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 08cv0136; *Sorensen v. Sanyo North America Corporation, et al.*, Case No. 08cv0135; *Sorensen v. Informatics, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 08cv0134; *Sorensen v. Ryobi Technologies, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 08cv0070; *Sorensen v. Senco Products, Inc.*, Case No. 08cv0071; *Sorensen v. Emerson Electric Co., et al*, Case No. 08cv0060; *Sorensen v. Johnson Level & Tool Mfg. Co., Inc.*, Case No. 08cv0025; *Sorensen v. Energizer Holdings, Inc., et al*, Case No. 07cv2321; *Sorensen v. Giant International, Inc., et al*, Case No. 07cv2121; *Sorensen v. Esseplast (USA) NC, Inc., et al*, Case No. 07cv2277; *Sorensen v. Helen of Troy Texas Corporation, et al*, Case No. 07cv2278; *Sorensen v. The Black & Decker Corporation, et al*, Civil Case No.: 06cv1572.

1 anticipated that they will also make a pro forma assertion of invalidity of the '184  
2 patent.

3 In the order staying the low-number related case, *Sorensen v. Black & Decker*  
4 *Corporation, et al*, Case No. 06cv01572, this Court explained the rationale for a stay  
5 pending reexamination in part as follows:

6 The Court believes that it will benefit from the PTO's evaluation of how  
7 the previously unconsidered prior art references impact the claims of the  
8 patent-in-suit.

9 *Id.*, at Docket #243, page 8:28-9:1 ("*Black & Decker Stay Order*"). In the Order, the  
10 Court also cited a list of advantages to stay pending reexamination from *Broadcast*  
11 *Innovation, L.L.C. v. Charter Communications, Inc.*, No. 03-cv-2223-ABJ-BNB,  
2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 45523, at \*26-31 (D.Colo. July 11, 2006), including:

12 Shifting the patent validity issue to the PTO has many advantages,  
13 including:

14 1. All prior art presented to the Court will have been first considered by  
the PTO, with its particular expertise . . . .

15 *Black & Decker Stay Order*, Docket #243, page 8:15-17 (emphasis added).

16 In order to achieve the benefits that the Court intended to be gained from a  
17 stay pending reexamination, it is necessary for the sued parties that are asserting  
18 invalidity of the '184 patent to identify claimed invalidating prior art in sufficient  
19 time for that prior art to be provided to the USPTO and considered during the already  
20 pending reexamination proceedings.

21 Thus, Sorensen requests the Court to order the Defendants to disclose their  
22 claimed invalidating prior art within 60 days.

### 23 **FACTUAL SUMMARY**

24 This patent infringement suit was filed on February 15, 2008 (Docket #1).  
25 Answers and Counterclaims were filed by the respective Defendants on April 1,  
26 2008 (Docket # 9) asserted invalidity of the '184 patent without detail. Defendant  
27 made a pro forma affirmative defense and counterclaim for declaratory relief of  
28

1 patent invalidity without detail. *Kramer Decl.* ¶ 3.

2 In July 2007 and December 2007, respectively, defendants in the related Black  
3 & Decker case filed requests for *ex parte* reexamination of the ‘184 patent with the  
4 USPTO. *Kramer Decl.* ¶ 4 and Exhibits A and B thereto. The prior art cited in the  
5 second *ex parte* request contained several prior art references that had not been  
6 disclosed to Sorensen in either of the parties’ Preliminary Invalidity Contentions  
7 served on February 2, 2007, nor the Amended Preliminary Invalidity Contentions  
8 served on March 5, 2007, nor the first *ex parte* request. *Kramer Decl.* ¶ 5 and  
9 Exhibits C and D thereto.

10 In the course of the present reexamination proceedings, Sorensen has, to their  
11 knowledge, identified to the USPTO all claimed invalidating prior art identified to  
12 Sorensen to date from any source. *Kramer Decl.* ¶ 6.

13 Although Sorensen has been in contact with Defendants in this case pre-  
14 litigation regarding the ‘184 patent, none of the correspondence from Defendants  
15 constitutes any type of binding assertion of all claimed prior art or other claimed  
16 basis for invalidity of the ‘184 patent. Thus, Sorensen has been unable to ensure that  
17 these Defendants’ asserted invalidated prior art will be reviewed by the USPTO.  
18 *Kramer Decl.* ¶ 7.

## 20 ARGUMENT

### 21 I. THIS COURT HAS THE POWER TO ACCELERATE DEADLINES SET 22 FORTH IN THE LOCAL PATENT RULES, INCLUDING THE DEADLINE FOR PRELIMINARY INVALIDITY CONTENTIONS.

23 “The court may accelerate, extend, eliminate, or modify the obligations or  
24 deadlines set forth in these Patent Local Rules based on the court’s schedule or the  
25 circumstances of any particular case, including, without limitation, the complexity of  
26 the case or the number of patents, claims, products, or parties involved. . . .” Patent  
27 L.R. 1.3.

28 The Patent L.R. set the deadline for parties opposing a claim of patent

1 infringement to serve Preliminary Invalidity Contentions not later than 60 days after  
2 service of Preliminary Infringement Contentions upon them. Patent L.R. 3.3, *et seq.*

3 The circumstances of this case, along with the 23 other pending '184 patent  
4 cases, warrants acceleration of the deadline to disclose any asserted invalidating  
5 prior art in time for those pieces of prior art to be reviewed by the USPTO within the  
6 currently pending reexamination proceedings.

7  
8 **II. ACCELERATION OF THE DEADLINE TO DISCLOSE CLAIMED  
9 INVALIDATING PRIOR ART WILL ALLOW CONCURRENT REVIEW  
10 OF ALL SUCH PRIOR ART BEFORE THE USPTO AND CONSERVE  
11 RESOURCES.**

12 Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 302, requests for reexamination of a patent may be  
13 filed by "any person at any time . . . on the basis of any prior art cited under the  
14 provisions of section 301 [patents or printed publications which that person believes  
15 to have a bearing on the patentability of any claim of a particular patent] . . ."

16 The intent of having a reexamination process is to allow for a cost effective  
17 alternative to litigation regarding the validity of a patent. That goal is largely lost  
18 when parties file successive reexamination requests (as has already been done with  
19 the '184 patent) and is entirely lost if pending reexaminations can and will be  
20 followed by successive judicial or USPTO validity challenges. This problem  
21 inherent in successive reexaminations was already noted by the USPTO in 2004. In  
22 explanation of certain rule changes, the USPTO stated:

23 It has been the Office's experience, however, that both patent owners  
24 and third party requesters have used a second or subsequent  
25 reexamination request . . . to prolong the reexamination proceeding . . . .  
26 These actions by patent owners and third party requesters have resulted  
27 in multiple reexaminations taking years to conclude, thus making it  
28 extremely difficult for the Office to conclude reexamination  
proceedings with "special dispatch" as required by statute (35 U.S.C.  
305 for ex parte reexamination, 35 U.S.C. 314 inter partes  
reexamination).

1 See *Kramer Decl.* ¶ 8, Exhibit E thereto in the “Background” section.

2 In the *Black & Decker* case, the case had proceeded for almost a full year prior  
3 to the filing of the first reexamination request (see Case No. 06cv1572, Docket #1 vs.  
4 Docket #178). Yet, despite two productions of preliminary invalidity contentions,  
5 the defendants did not cite all of the prior art that was cited in a second  
6 reexamination request.

7 Neither the Court nor Sorensen, and more importantly, the USPTO currently  
8 conducting a reexamination of the ‘184 patent, know what prior art the Defendants in  
9 this case may be asserted later as a basis to invalidate the ‘184 patent.

10 Unless the parties making a blanket claim of invalidity are required to  
11 promptly identify all prior art that they believe might invalidate the ‘184 patent, the  
12 stay-pending-reexamination benefit of “all prior art presented to the Court [having  
13 been] first considered by the PTO” as set forth by the courts in *Emhart Indus., Inc. v.*  
14 *Sankyo Seiki Mfg. Co.*, 3 U.S.P.Q.2d 1889, 1890 (N.D. Ill. 1987); *Broadcast*, supra;  
15 and this Court in the *Black & Decker* case, will be lost.

## 16 17 CONCLUSION

18 Judicial efficiency will be greatly enhanced by acceleration of the deadline for  
19 the Defendants in this case (and in all of the related ‘184 patent cases) to identify all  
20 items of claimed invalidating prior art within the next 60 days. This would allow  
21 Sorensen to advise the USPTO of all prior art asserted to be invalidating  
22 immediately. The USPTO could then consider the prior art within the currently  
23 pending reexamination proceedings.

24 This consolidation of efforts into the currently pending reexaminations will  
25 reduce the likelihood of any further substantial delays on the issue of patent validity  
26 after the pending reexamination proceedings are concluded.

27 Sorensen thus respectfully requests the Court to order the Defendants in this  
28 case to identify to Sorensen all items of claimed invalidating prior art within 60 days.

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2  
3 DATED this Friday, April 04, 2008.

4 JENS ERIK SORENSEN, as Trustee of  
5 SORENSEN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
6 TRUST, Plaintiff

7 /s./ Melody A. Kramer

8 Melody A. Kramer, Esq.

9 J. Michael Kaler

10 Attorney for Plaintiff  
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